The Call Letter

October 2020
Vol 46, #10

2019 NWVRS Trash Bash

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

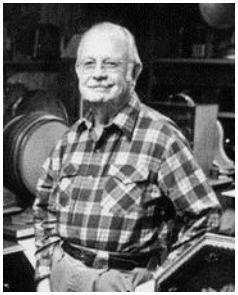
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.



With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	soundmikey14@gmail.com
Librarian	Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	flat4pdx@gmail.com
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

2019 NWVRS Annual Trash Bash - Photography by Franklin Ouchida

---

October Table of Contents

Announcements.....1
President's Note and VP Note 2
NWVRS Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2020 by Liles Garcia.....3
F is for Ford F250 by Dan Howard.....4
Two eggs on my plate by Dan Howard.....5
Emerson 888 transistor radios by Dan Howard 7
Non-workable crystal sets and beginners' projects by Hue Miller 9
Swap Shop 10
Sonny Clutter's Monthly Showcase.....12

Announcements

October 2020 meeting - Sat. Oct.10 - Online, details in email
October Monthly Feature - Radios with a "H" in their name
October Tech Talk - None this month
October Tube of the Month - Hytron tubes. Thanks, Mike and Damon
Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads. Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.
Editor's Note - Please have October Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, November 1. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too). (No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for September 2020:

The auction for the Patrick Holzwarth estate on Sunday, September 20th was a big hit and there were bargains for everyone! I want to thank everyone who helped with the set-up, running the auction, and clean up. Special thanks to Esteban Mendoza who used his truck and trailer to pick up and deliver the 170+ lots along with taking pictures and creating a detailed manifest.
On Saturday, October 10th starting at 9:30 am the NWVRS meeting will be on-line using Zoom. Franklin will send out the invites beforehand with instructions, so watch your emails.
Right after the Zoom meeting ends, around 11:00 am, depending upon travel time, we will sponsor the annual Trash Bash at the Abernethy Grange. This is where you bring your unwanted radio and radio related items to be recycled in hopes that someone will take home your unwanted items and you will take home a few treasures of your own. In order for you to attend, you must sign the COVID-19 release form, wear a face mask, and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer and forms will be provided by NWVRS. Items for the Trash Bash are largely being provided by left over items from the Hultine estate auction. Please review the items at this link and let me know if there are any items that you wish to bid on to save them from the dumpster! Hurry as you only have until noon on Friday the 9th as we need time to pull the items.
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1SqUNQK3AX3GO9j7hhGDHZrK__H4LbANr
James Harper donation his entire collection of ARC publications for all to check out and read. Lud Sibley also donation his collection of Tube Collectors Association magazines. Both are being stored at the Abernethy Grange.

Thanks and take care, Pat

VP Note:

Feature of the month Is "H" Any radios with the letter "H"
Any members that wants to be on the phone call list please contact me at (971)407-8108
Zoom Tech Talks speakers wanted contact me with any interest.
NWVRS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
October 10 2020 9:30 am Meeting Room - Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9169559120?pwd=eXFUdmg3VFY0TVNIKzNmTEVxcTRxUT09
Meeting ID: 916 955 9120

Passcode: 3zaXib
One tap mobile
+13462487799,,9169559120#,,,,,,0#,,416243# US (Houston)
+16699006833,,9169559120#,,,,,,0#,,416243# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Meeting ID: 916 955 9120
Passcode: 416243
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kqjpzSMDU

It's just some thoughts. Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2020

President Pat Kagi called the September, 2020 meeting of the NWVRS to order using the Zoom software. Members pledged allegiance our nation's flag. Robby Robinson said that our swap meets have been tentatively cancelled for the rest of the year. Rick Walton and Oz Osborne are working on making past Call Letters computer-searchable. Everyone is reminded to please pay their 2020 dues. If you pay your 2020 dues, you will be considered to be paid for year 2021 also. If you would like to be a part of a members' phone tree, contact Franklin.
The program topic for today is "Radios that have a name starting with a 'G'." Rick Walton showed the group a Granco FM only radio. He also showed a Gilfillan 66B tube portable. Mike McCrow showed a GE 220, Mark Richardson showed a GE F63, and Larry Tobkin showed a GE F70, and Robby Robinson showed a GE EL660. The Program Topic for October will be "Radios with a name beginning with an 'H'."
Mike McCrow showed the group a GE 6U5 tuning eye tube with the "GE" logo on the top of the tube. Robby Robinson showed the group a GE 6U5 with the "GE" marking on the side of the tube. He also showed an RCA 6AF6 tuning eye tube.
The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the September Call Letter. The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

F is for Ford F250

By Dan Howard

Ford 250 Camper Special radio

Philco is known as a major American radio manufacturer. Starting as the Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, they expanded from making batteries and accessories in the late 1920's and lead the market during the depression with their outstanding line of cathedrals. When radios became a practical and desirable car accessory in the 1930's Philco began a decades-long relationship with Ford.

In 1961, Ford purchased Philco, creating the Philco-Ford company. Though Philco continued making car radios and their consumer products, the 1960's marked an expansion into making car-shaped radios as sales promotion products for Ford.

For decades, the major US automakers made highly detailed miniatures of their cars in factory paint colors as a sales incentive. In 1964, Ford created the "promo radio" by replacing the car interior and detailed

bottom with a transistor radio. The most commonly seen "promo" radios are the line of Ford Thunderbird radios which were manufactured annually from 1964 to 1969. Philco-Ford also produced Mustangs and Lincoln Continentals for a short time in the mid 1960's.

In 1965, Ford worked with the Nylint Toy Company to produce a promotional version of their F250 Camper Special pickup truck. The truck was an officially-authorized Ford item replete with details and Ford logos. The front wheels were sprung with a toy version of Ford's "Twin I-beam Suspension" and a label on the hood encouraged customers to push and try the springs.

The 13" steel truck has plastic windows and rubber white-wall tires. Completing the package is a nicely-detailed plastic camper shell containing a Philco-Ford transistor radio. It is such a charmer – I can't help but smile every time I see it.

I purchased my F250 used. However, I know a Ford salesman who received his from the dealership where he worked as a prize for good sales. To the best of my knowledge, all Philco-Ford F250's were produced with aqua Nylint trucks and white plastic camper shells.

A collector's suggestion – to protect the tires on your promo radios from flat-spotting or cracking, rest the center of the radio on a small block of wood that is just high-enough to keep the tires from touching the shelf.

Two Eggs on My Plate

By Dan Howard

I really liked John Cushing's story "Clandestine Radio in Norway during World War II" that appeared in the August Call Letter.

Readers who want to learn more may be interested in the book "Two Eggs on my Plate" which is Oluf Reed Olsen's thrilling first-hand account of being a clandestine radio operator in Norway during the war.

(Picture of the book's cover on next page.)

TWO EGGS on my PLATE

OLUF
REED
OLSEN

. . . the author's exciting story of his part in the Norwegian Underground

Emerson 888 Transistor Radios

By Dan Howard

Emerson launched its familiar "888" line of eight-transistor radios in the 1957/1958 period and the series ran through the early 1960's.

At 4" wide 6 ½" tall and 2" deep, these "pocket" radios were sized for only the largest coat pockets! They did come with a swing-out carrying handle, however, which doubled as a convenient prop for leaning.

Although Emerson used the same "888" model number throughout the series, they used a variety of space-age names to differentiate the designs through the course of the run.

Most sets had brightly-colored soft plastic cabinets similar to nylon. A few were produced in leather cases

Here is an alphabetic list of the versions:

	Year
The first version (no name)	1957
Atlas	1960
Explorer	1960
Galaxy	1962
Pioneer	1958
Satellite	1958
Titan	1962
Transtimer	1958
Transtimer II	1959
Vanguard	1958

A one-owner Explorer! In 1962, NVRS member Ray Nelson found purchased this Emerson 888 Explorer new at a Navy ships store in Japan.

Sources:

Bunis, Marty & Sue. Collector's Guide to Transistor Radios 2nd ed. (Paducah KY: Collector Books, 1996)

Here are four Emerson 888 models from the late 1950's.
(Clockwise from top left) Pioneer, Vanguard, Atlas, Explorer.
Pictures courtesy of Robert Davidson
http://www.abetterpage.com/wt/us/Em888series.html

Non-workable crystal sets and projects for beginners

by Hue Miller [First appeared in the NWVRS email stream - Editor}

I have owned 4 homemade crystal radios that just "did not work". No problem with the detector; it was that the coil was too small inductance. I surmise that the spoken advice back when was to "wind about 100 turns" on your form. However, the diameter is all - important! This radio for example has an inductance of about 100 uH. Recommended is about 240 uH. Even with a high capacity long antenna, it can't tune down into the broadcast band. And that reminds me now. Alfred Morgan's "First Book of Radio for Boys", has a crystal radio plan that is incorrect and will not work! How helpful!

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.
Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Sid Saul	503 869-5280	Hebo
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

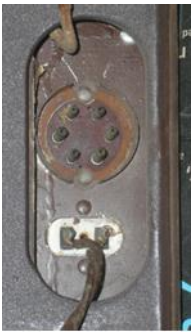
For Sale: Various radio chassis' including Philco 20, 60, and 90 and misc. others, many with full complement of tubes. Also well-made home brew and 2 armature speakers with possible good drivers. Home brew $25, any chassis $20, speaker $5 each. Everything pictured for $60 but must take all. Located in Mt. Angel, OR. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897

1,500 45 RPM records for sale. A lot of late 1950's and early 1960's Doo Wop records. $300.00 for all. Electronically restored General Motors model 140 console radio. Very beautiful cabinet. $300.00 - Steve K. (541) 388-9978 == >

FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) $20 Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565 ***

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

---



WANTED: I need the cable that plugs into the 6 pin male receptacle in the right picture. I also need the schematic for this unit. I have very little information about this unit except it will operate from household current or from a 6-volt source in an automobile. I would like to restore this unit and make it operational. Raymond Holland, chev33radio@comcast.net

---

There are 3 pieces of equipment that I am hoping to find in the local area:
General Radio Standard Signal Generator, Type 805
Hallicrafters SX-12 Commercial Skyrider
Hallicrafters, S-37 (or S-27/C, S-27/CA)
Jeff Quay <jeff_quay@hotmail.com>

FREE Tombstone cabinet made by Crosley. Some assembly required!!! Craig Wohlgemuth, call 360-901-1330 or cw2engineering@comcast.net * ➔

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all bands and in excellent condition. Asking $165.00 or best offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 <radioray39@gmail.com> ***

WANTED: Austrian Minerva receiver model 388 made in 1937-1938. The model number should be on the center column on the front bakelite housing below the magic eye but if missing will be stamped on the back. Bob Krassa bob@krassa.com or call 303-475-2824. Thanks! (Member of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club) ***

WANTED: I wish to purchase a 1942 Model 985866 Portable radio as pictured. Please contact me at 360 695-6349 or (C) 360 989-5981. The radio is ID'd by the Model # and the GM under the dial. - Ray Holland ***

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase
By Sonny Clutter

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy
Web Site: http://www.radiolaguy.com Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

October 2020 - The Majestic 5TO
One of the most unusual clock radios made

http://www.radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature10-20).htm

The first clock radios were made in the 1931-32 period by nearly every manufacturer. Afterwards there were no more clock radios made until 1939 when Majestic introduced the model 5T. James Reynolds may have invented the first alarm clock radio in the early '40s but certainly not the first clock radio.

The Majestic 5T and 5TO have to be one of the most unusual clock radio's made. They are small, cube shaped and when the radio is in the off state, it appears to be just a clock with a mirror background. Turn on the radio and the two-way mirror reveals the back-lit radio dial. Mirrors are hard to photograph, so the silvered mirror appears to be black in the photo but in real life it looks like any other mirror until the radio is turned on.

Unlike the modern and G E's first clock radio, the Majestic clock has no alarm or radio turn on feature. It's just a clock and it has to be hand started by spinning the small metal knob at the center. The speaker faces out on the backside of the molded radios back.

CUNNINGHAM RADIO TUBES

C-301A—5 Volts 1-4 Ampere filament $6.50

C-299—3 Volts .06 amp. Dry Battery Det. & Amp. $6.50

C-300—5 Volts Gas Content Detector $5.00

C-11—1.1 Volts .25 amp. Dry Battery Det. and Amp. Special Base $6.50

C-12—Similar to C-11 with standard base $6.50

Type C-301A gives greater Power Amplification with only ¼ Amp. Filament Current.

PATENT NOTICE

Cunningham tubes are covered by patents dated 11-7-05, 1-15-07, 2-18-08, and others issued and pending. Licensed for amateur, experimental and entertainment use in radio communication. Any other use will be an infringement.

Cunningham

RADIO TUBES

For Every Make of Receiving Set

THROUGHOUT the entire country today Cunningham Radio Tubes are recognized as the ideal tube for use in all makes of Radio Receiving Sets.

The famous Cunningham C-301A Amplifier shown above is a high vacuum tube designed for use as an amplifier and detector containing a new Tungsten Filament, the characteristics of which are long life, low power consumption, low operating temperature and greater power amplification than any previous amplifier tube. This tube has a standard four prong base, and the glass bulb has the same dimensions as C-300 and C-301. The filament current is only one-fourth of the filament current of the previous type of Amplifier tube and it is, therefore, possible to use four of these tubes in a set without exhausting the storage battery any faster than when using only one of the previous types of tubes.

The care and operation of each model of Receiving Tube is fully explained in our new 40 page "Radio Tube Data Book." Copies may be obtained by sending ten cents in stamps to our San Francisco office.

E. T. Cunningham Inc.

Home Office:
182 Second Street
San Francisco

154 West Lake Street
Chicago

30 Church Street
New York

NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

FIRST CLASS MAIL